REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the courtesies extended by Examiner Kim during the personal interview conducted on October 21, 2003, are greatly appreciated.

During the interview, Applicants' undersigned representative provided proposed amendments to claims 8, 18 and 24, and explained why it is believed that these claims define around Kamijima et al. In this regard, it was pointed out to Examiner Kim that the mounting head sections or rotary members being "rotatable" does not find a counterpart in Kamijima et al. Specifically, the carrier 31 which Examiner Kim equated to the head sections in the Office Action mailed August 21, 2003, is not rotatable. With regard to structure of Kamijima et al. that mounts components, only the gripping fingers 21 are disclosed to be rotatable, i.e. column 3, lines 35-37 of Kamijima et al. state that these fingers are "pivotally supported".

During the interview, Applicants' undersigned representative explained that this pivotal movement is believed to be about a horizontal axis, i.e. an axis passing through the plane of the paper containing Figure 2, and explained that these pivotal gripping fingers 21 cannot reasonably be construed to correspond to rotatable mounting head sections. Examiner Kim apparently agreed with this explanation if indeed it is only the fingers 21 that pivot, about horizontal axes, and the gripping device 18 or nozzle 19 does not rotate about a vertical axis; however, Examiner Kim was unable during the interview to definitely conclude that the only rotational members are the fingers 21. If the gripping device 18 or nozzle 19 does pivot or rotate about a vertical axis, then Examiner Kim expressed that the rotatable mounting head sections or rotary members as claimed can arguably be read on Kamijima et al.

It is again respectfully expressed that the fingers 21 of Kajima et al. pivot about the aforementioned horizontal axes, and that neither the gripping device 18 nor the nozzle 19 pivots or rotates about a vertical axis, and accordingly, Kamijima et al. cannot be reasonably said to include the rotatable mounting head sections or rotary members as recited in the claims presented to Examiner Kim during the interview.

Irrespective of the above, by the current amendment claims 8, 18 and 24 have been amended so as to be further distinguished from Kamijima et al., regardless of whether the fingers 21 pivot about a horizontal axis, or whether the gripping device 18 or nozzle 19 pivots or rotates about a vertical axis. In this regard, each of claims 8, 18 and 24 now recite a component mounting apparatus that comprises *inter alia*

a first rotary member having first nozzles, wherein said first rotary member is rotatable such that upon rotation of said first rotary member said first nozzles simultaneously rotate... and a second rotary member having second nozzles, wherein said second rotary member is rotatable such that upon rotation of said second rotary member said second nozzles simultaneously rotate.

This is clearly shown in Figure 3, for example, wherein it is shown that as rotary member 32 rotates the nozzles 33 attached thereto simultaneously rotate. Such a component mounting apparatus is not taught or suggested by Kamijima et al.

In this regard, regardless of whether the fingers 21 pivot or rotate about a horizontal axis, or whether the gripping device 18 or nozzle 19 pivots or rotates about a vertical axis, there is no teaching in Kamijima et al. that, if the nozzle 19 or the gripping device 18 does in fact rotate, such rotation of one of the gripping devices or nozzles would result in simultaneous rotation of another gripping device 18 or nozzle 19. Accordingly, claims 8, 18 and 24 are not anticipated by Kamijima et al., whereby claims 8-11, 18-28, 30, 32 and 34 are allowable.

Also, please note that the claims have been further amended solely for formal and clarification purposes.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Kanji HATA et al.

Joseph M. Gorski

Registration No. 46,500 Attorney for Applicants

JMG/edg Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 November 21, 2003

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